JOHN BENNETT fine paintings

A bust portrait of a gentleman in green coat and waistcoat with silver thread and white lace stock and cuffs with a tricorn hat under his arm

Sold

Robert Edge Pine



REF: 348670

London, England

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Description

ROBERT EDGE PINE c.1730-1788English School A bust portrait of a gentleman in green coat and waistcoat with silver thread and white lace stock and cuffs with a tricorn hat under his arm Oil on canvas 76.4 x 63.5 cms 30 x 25 insOverall framed size Provenance: Ex collection Jules Cambon
Robert Edge Pine was one of London's leading portrait painters in the 1760s and even before then he was described in the November 1748 edition of the Universal Magazine as an "eminent painter". He portrayed royalty and was one of the first painters to do portraits of actors and when he emigrated to America in 1784, he depicted some of the key figures from the American War of Independence.

He was the son of the the engraver John Pine (1690-1756) and was born in London probably in the late 1720s. It is probable that Robert received his initial artistic instruction from hs father but little else is known about his formative years or who else might have trained him. In Vertue iii, the notebooks of George Vertue published by the Walpole Society, it states that in 1742 there was a "young Pine" who was "brushing off (crayons) at a guinea a piece". This was probably written about Robert or it possibly refers to his brother Simon who became a miniature painter.

In 1759 Pine was commissioned to paint a portrait of George II and this turned out to be a remarkable work especially as it was done without sittings. On 2nd April 1760 he was awarded the top premium (100 guineas) from the Free Society of Arts for his "Surrender of Calais to Edward III" and again in 1763 for the depiction of "Canute the Great reproving his courtiers for their impious flattery" by the same institution. He continued to exhibit some history paintings alongside portraits in London until the late 1760s with 29 at the Roayl Aacademy, 11 at the Free Society of Artists and 10 at the British Institute. Apart from painting the nobility, gentry and wealthy merchant classes, he also took a keen interest in the theatrical world and was one of the first to do renditions of actors in character roles such as "Mrs Pritchard in the character of Hermione in the Winter's Tale", "Mr Reddish in the character of Posthumus , Cymbeline, act the fifth, scene the last" together with several portraits of David Garrick who was a friend. In 1782 he painted a series of scenes from Shakespeare of which some were engraved, appearing in Boydell's "Shakespeare".

Pine moved to the highly fashionable city of Bath in 1772, remaining there until 1779. Bath was a gret source of patronage for portraitists but although he had been exhibiting mainly portraits in London up until this time, he returned to history painting in his new home while also continuing as a portraitist. The relocation to Bath might have owed something to his not being appointed a founding member of the Royal Academy by Sir Joshua Reynolds.. Several reasons for this have been posited: for some it was because Pine was a difficult individual of very small stature, cantankerous, disagreeably temperamental and irritable. Others claim that it was because Reynolds perceived him as a threat for pre-eminence as a potr...

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